

U.S. Arctic Policy and Coordination

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Arctic Boundary as defined by the Arctic Research and Policy Act (ARPA)

All United States and foreign territory north of the Arctic Circle and all United States territory north and west of the boundary formed by the Porcupine, Yukon, and Kuskokwim Rivers; all contiguous seas, including the Arctic Ocean and the Beaufort, Bering and Chukchi Seas; and the Aleutian chain.¹

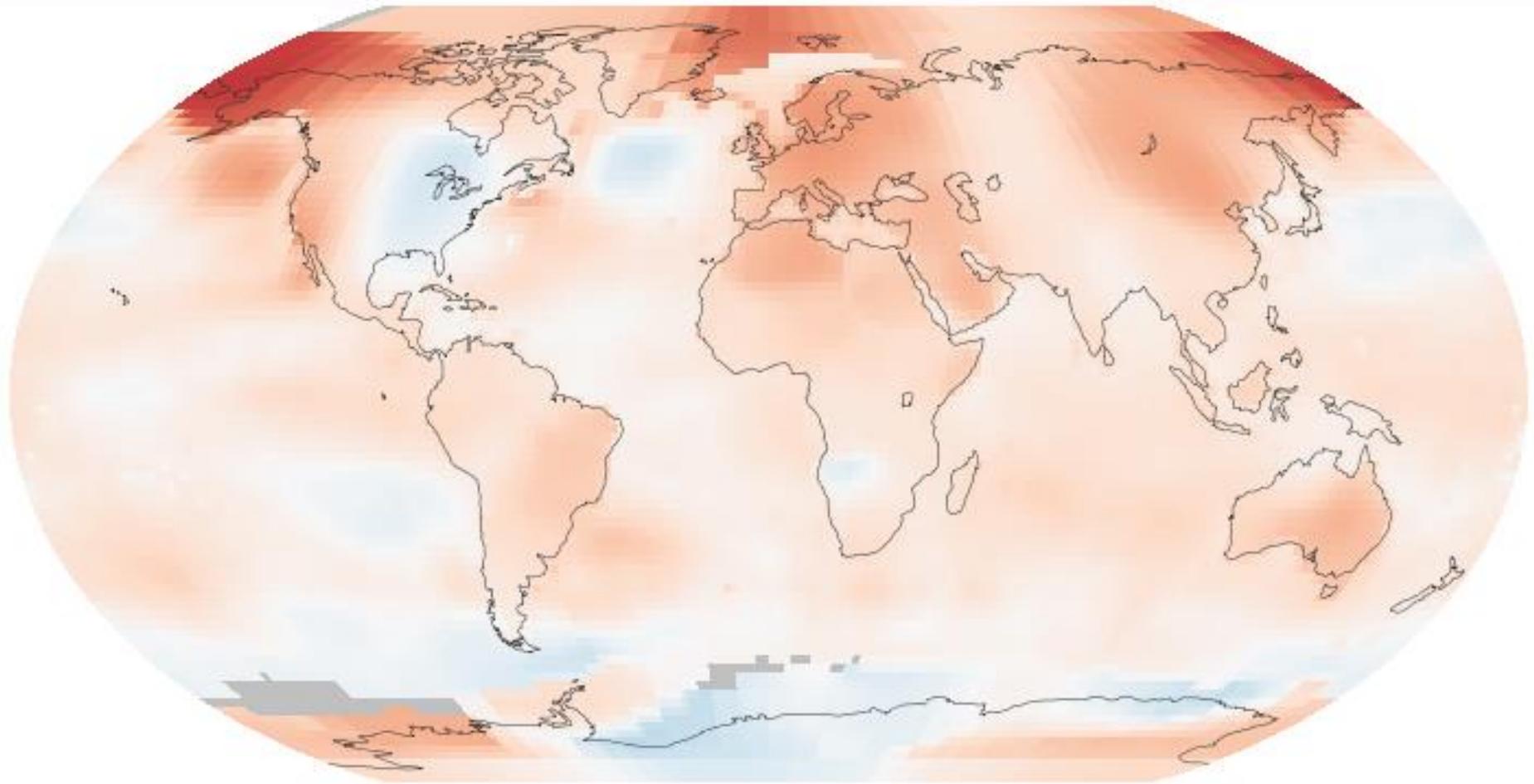


U.S. national interests in the Arctic

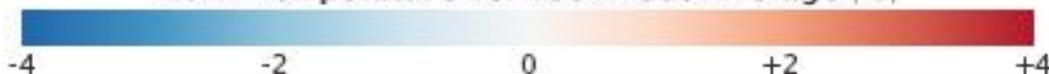
- national defense;
- sovereign rights and responsibilities;
- maritime safety;
- energy and economic benefits;
- environmental stewardship;
- scientific research;
- indigenous peoples and their rights & cultures;
- preservation of the rights, freedoms, and uses of the sea as reflected in international law.

Change in the Arctic: rapid warming

2014 Temperature Anomaly



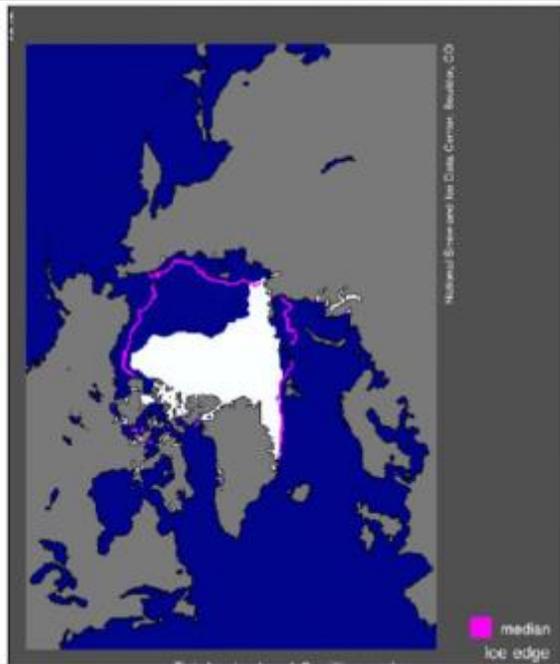
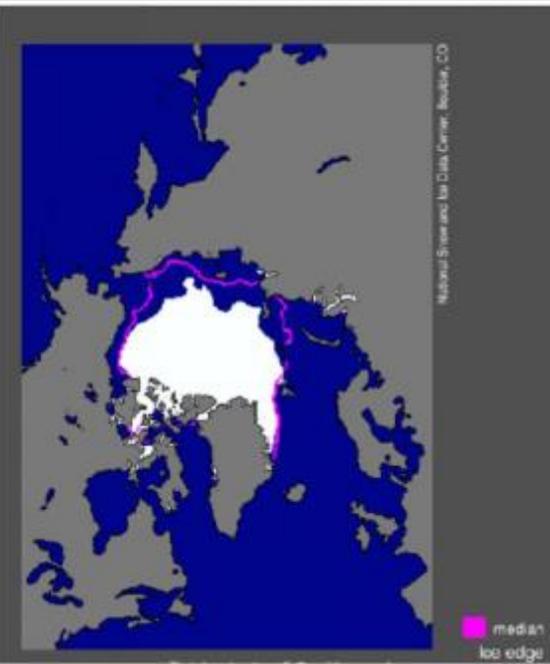
2014 Temperature vs. 1951-1980 Average (°C)



Challenges & opportunities of warming

- Shrinking sea ice extent and thickness mean
 - expanded maritime navigation possibilities → economic benefits, jurisdictional issues, increasing ship traffic, pollution/accidents
 - expanded access to seabed resources → economic benefits, jurisdictional issues, increasing industrial activity, pollution/accidents
 - increased requirements for Coast Guard, Navy, & other oversight, management, & regulatory functions in the region
 - existential threats to ice-dependent creatures and the indigenous communities that utilize them
 - increased risks to coastal communities & infrastructure from sea-level rise and the loss of shoreline protection by sea ice
- Thawing permafrost threatens land transport, infrastructure
- Warming alters plant cover, vulnerability to wildfire, & other aspects of ecosystem dynamics

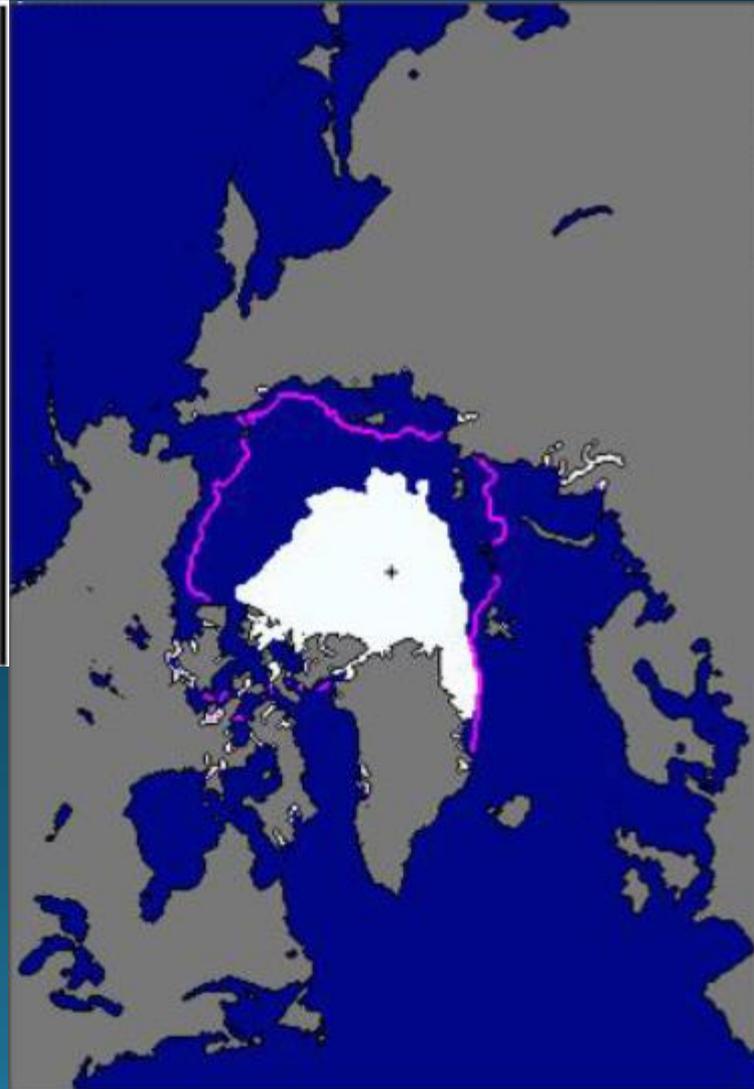
The shrinking Arctic sea ice



September 2005

September 2007

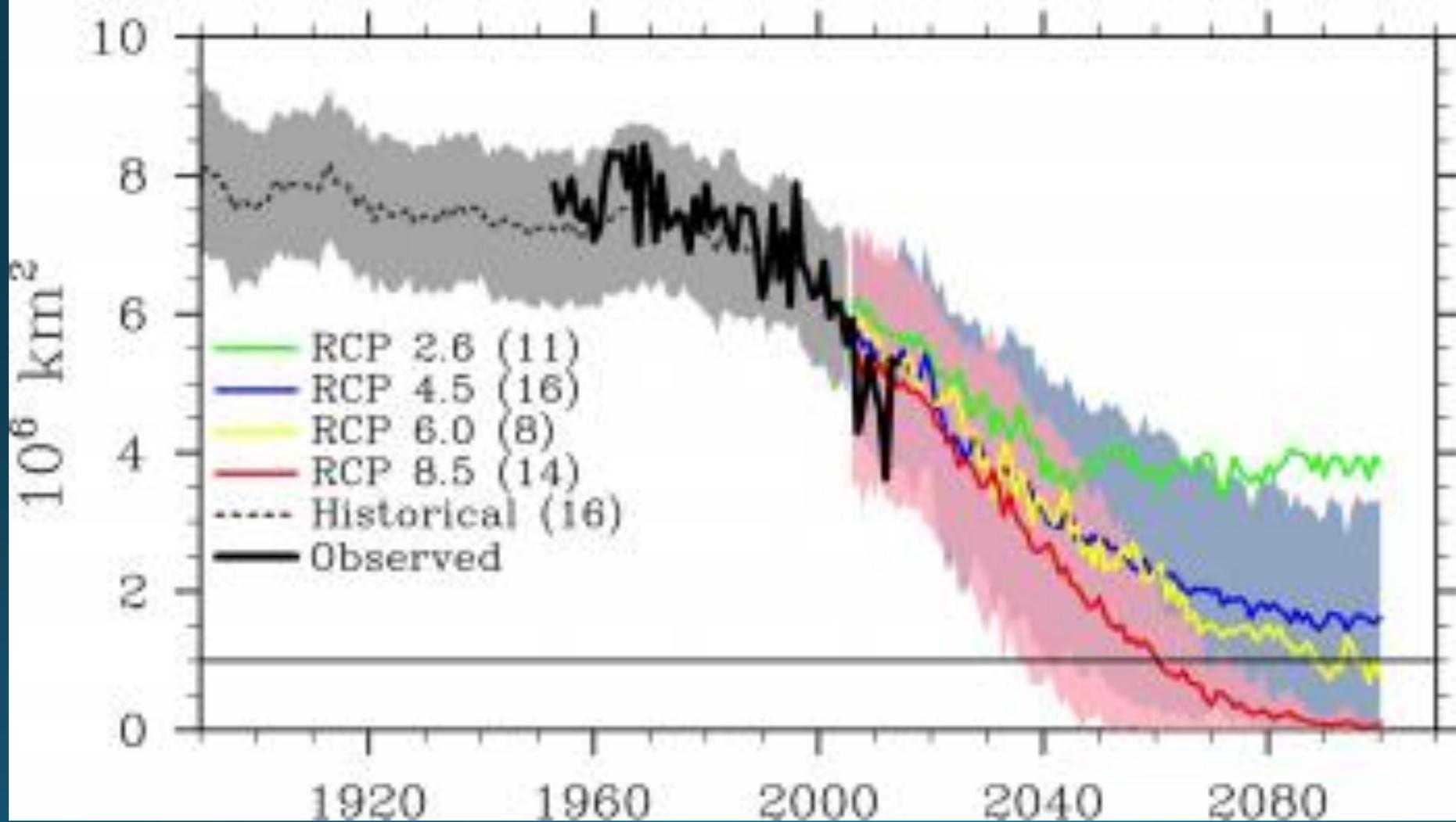
The magenta line is the average sea-ice extent at its September minimum from 1979 to 2000. The 2012 extent was by far the lowest since 1979, when satellite observations began.



September 2012

Summer Arctic sea-ice history & future

Future Projections of September Arctic Sea Ice Extent Under Various Emissions Scenarios



Arctic policy & coordination chronology

- Arctic Research & Policy Act (1984, amended 1990)
—created U.S. Arctic Research Commission and Interagency Arctic Research Policy Commission
- (8-nation) Arctic Council (1996)
- NSPD-66 / HSPD-25: Arctic Region Policy (Jan 2009)
- National Ocean Council (July 2010)
- Arctic Search & Rescue Agreement (Jan 2013)
- Interagency Report on Arctic Management (Mar 2013)
- Nat'l Strategy for the Arctic Region (May 2013)
- Nat'l Strategy Implementation Plan (Jan 2014)
- Nat'l Strategy Implementation Report (Jan 2015)
- EO on Enhancing Coordination of National Efforts in the Arctic (Jan 2015)

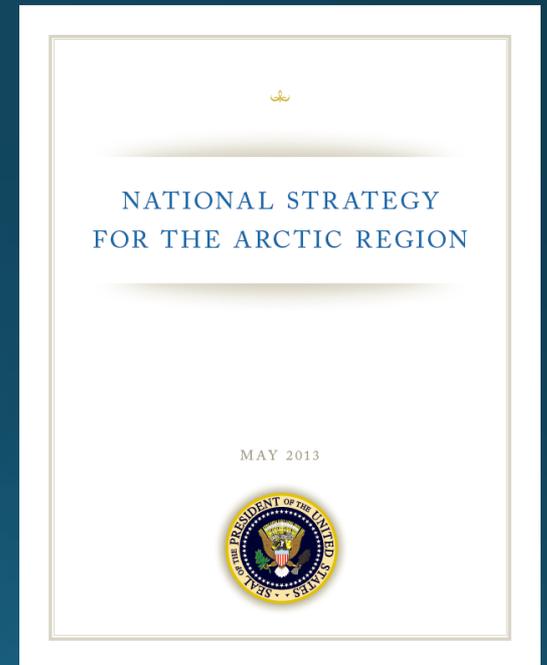
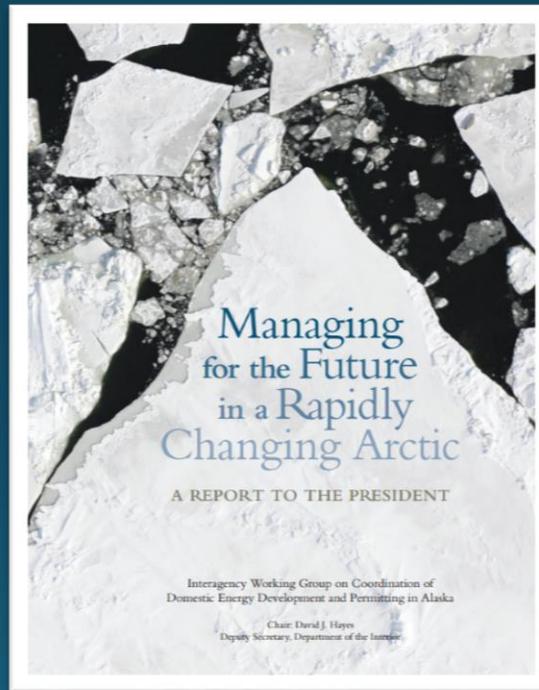
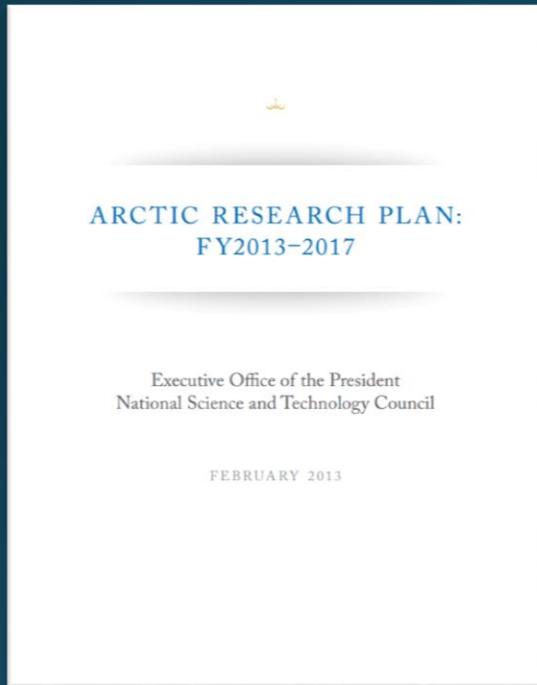
Aims of the 2009 Arctic Policy

- Meeting U.S. national security needs.
- Protecting the Arctic environment and conserving its living resources.
- Ensuring environmentally-sustainable natural resource management and economic development in the region.
- Strengthening institutions for cooperation among the eight Arctic nations (the United States, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, the Russian Federation, and Sweden).
- Involving the Arctic's indigenous communities in decisions that affect them.
- Enhancing scientific monitoring and research on local, regional, and global environmental issues.

Priority Lines of Effort in the 2013 Strategy

- Protect U.S. national and homeland security interests
- Promote responsible stewardship
- Foster international cooperation

Recent USG reports on Arctic strategy, management, and research.



Interrelationships among U.S. interagency Arctic activities

Security & International

Interagency Policy Committee
National Security Staff; Arctic Policy Group
Department of State
U.S. Extended Continental Shelf Task Force
National Ocean Council/
Department of Defense
Task Force on Climate Change

Energy Development & Transportation

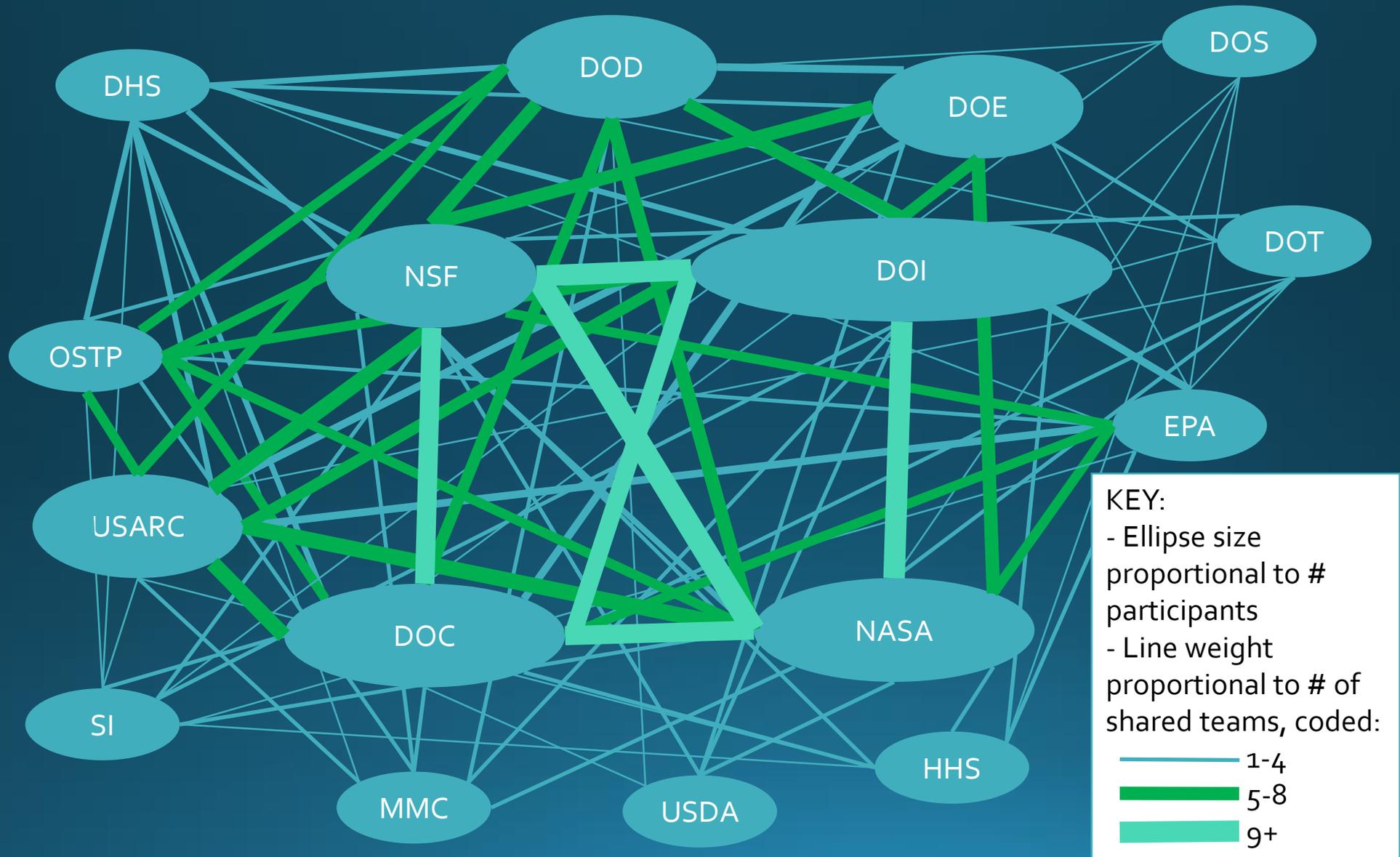
Interagency Working Group on
Coordination of Domestic Energy
Development and Permitting in AK
Committee on Marine Transportation

Science & Stewardship

National Ocean Council,
Arctic Research Commission
Interagency Arctic Research Policy Commission
Alaska Marine Ecosystem Forum
North Slope Science Initiative,
Alaska Climate Change Round Table

A Visualization of Federal Arctic Research Coordination

Who's talking to Whom?



Executive Order: Enhancing Coordination of National efforts in the Arctic

January 21, 2015

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary



For Immediate Release

January 21, 2015

Executive Order --- Enhancing Coordination of National Efforts in the Arctic

EXECUTIVE ORDER

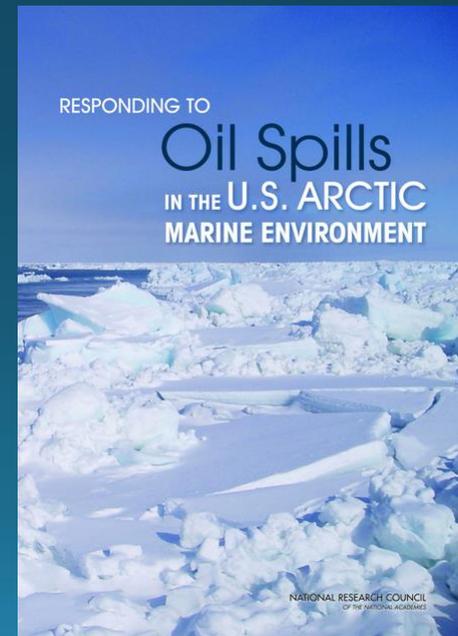
ENHANCING COORDINATION OF NATIONAL EFFORTS IN THE ARCTIC

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and to prepare the Nation for a changing Arctic and enhance coordination of national efforts in the Arctic, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Policy. The Arctic has critical long-term strategic, ecological, cultural, and economic value, and it is imperative that we continue to protect our national interests in the region, which include: national defense; sovereign rights and responsibilities; maritime safety; energy and economic benefits; environmental stewardship; promotion of science and research; and preservation of the rights, freedoms, and uses of the sea as reflected in international law.

What can AESC accomplish?

- Help shape & reconcile priorities
- Promote coordinated implementation & evaluation
- Improve coherence of engagement with the State of Alaska and Alaska Native communities
- Support U.S. Chairmanship of the Arctic Council



US Chairmanship of the Arctic Council 2015-2017

Working Groups of the Arctic Council

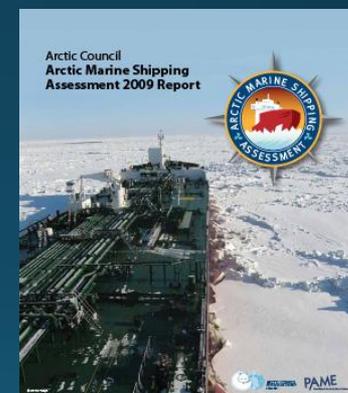
Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme



Conservation of the Arctic Flora and Fauna



Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment



Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response



Arctic Economic Council



Sustainable Development Working Group

